

Message Text

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14

ORIGIN L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 H-02 COA-02 SCI-06 COME-00 EB-11

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 /047 R

DRAFTED BY L/ ARA: TABOREK/ CBF

5/9/73 EXT 23082

APPROVED BY ARA/ CAR: JRBURKE

L/ ARA: DAGANTZ

L/ OA: HDCAMITTA

ARA/ CAR: KLWAUCHOPE

----- 021912

R 092026 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL NASSAU

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 088181

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, CPRS, BF, US

SUBJECT: SUNKEN TREASURE: SEAFINDERS, INC. CASE

REF: (A) NASSAU 956 OF 9/27/72

(B) NASSAU A-327 OF 12/19/72

(C) NASSAU 579

1. JACK KELLEY, PRESIDENT OF SEAFINDERS, INC., CONTACTED DEPARTMENT WEEK OF 4/29 CONCERNING DIFFICULTIES WITH GOBI OVER CONTRACT FOR SALVAGE OF SUNKEN SPANISH TREASURE GAL- LEON. DEPARTMENT HAS OBTAINED COPIES OF LICENSE AGREEMENT AND RELEVANT GOBI/ SEAFINDERS CORRESPONDENCE FROM OFFICE OF SENATOR BELLMON (OKLA.). SAME APPARENTLY SENT CONGEN BY KELLEY. AFTER REVIEWING DOCUMENTS L/ ARA TELEPHONED KELLEY 5/1 TO MAKE ADDITIONAL INQUIRIES.

2. DURING TELECON KELLEY RECOUNTED HISTORY OF PROBLEM SUBSTANTIALLY AS FOLLOWS: SEAFINDERS IS ASSIGNEE OF 1968 LICENSE ISSUED UNDER 1965 BAHAMAS ABANDONED WRECK ACT-
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TERMS PROVIDED THAT 75 PERCENT OF SALVAGE FOUND GOES TO PROSPECTOR AND 25 PERCENT TO GOBI. WRECK DISCOVERED IN 1972 AND SEAFINDERS AT ONCE REQUESTED GOBI TO SEND INSPECTOR TO OBSERVE SALVAGE OPERATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH TERMS OF LICENSE. NO INSPECTOR SENT AT FIRST BECAUSE

GOBI PREOCCUPIED WITH ELECTION CAMPAIGN. SALVAGED ITEMS REMOVED TO FLORIDA BANK FOR STORAGE RATHER THAN TO BAHAMAS AS REQUIRED BY LICENSE. THEN TRANSPORT MINISTER JOHNSON NOTIFIED OFGET INTO A DISCUSSION, BUT EVEN AS SOBOLEV WAS WALKING OUT THE DOOR HE ASKED WHAT RELEVANCE JAPAN COULD HAVE TO ATLANTIC MATTERS.) STRAUSS- HUPE

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE088181
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TABOREK/ CBF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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To: NASSAU
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